



## **Youth Musical Theater Company**

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### **YMTC to Present Musical *Les Misérables*, July 19–28, in El Cerrito**

*Berkeley, California, May 29, 2019*—As the grand finale of its 14<sup>th</sup> year of producing highly-regarded regional theater, Youth Musical Theater Company (YMTC) will stage the epic musical, *Les Misérables*. The show opens Friday, July 19, at the El Cerrito High School Performing Arts Theater. Its run consists of two 2:00 p.m. matinees (7/21, 7/28) and four 7:00 p.m. performances (7/19, 7/20, 7/26, 7/28).

Based on Victor Hugo's 1862 novel, *Les Misérables* is a moving portrayal of social injustice in 19<sup>th</sup>-century France. The story centers on Jean Valjean, a prisoner who breaks his parole to start a new life. His impassioned struggle for freedom and redemption involves a host of memorable characters who support him or pose a threat. *Les Misérables* premiered in London in 1985 and has run there continuously since then. It remains the world's longest running musical.

"*Les Misérables* is an especially exciting production for us," says Director Jennifer Boesing. "Many of our alumni are returning to perform in the cast or work alongside the directors and the design team. At YMTC, we offer an exceptional learning environment in which older students—often ones who've grown up in our company—come back to mentor younger ones. *Les Misérables* is a fabulous ensemble show for this kind of cast. It weaves together more than a hundred characters over a span of nearly twenty years. It will be spectacular!"

Music Director David Möschler adds, "As an epic musical, *Les Misérables* ranks among those at the top, largely because of its score. Completely sung-through, the entire story is revealed through complex recitative solos, duets, trios, and large ensemble numbers. Many scholars label *Les Misérables* as a pop-operetta or mega-musical. A production this large requires a strong orchestral component, so I'm thrilled to be conducting a live 30-piece orchestra. It includes nine high school and college students in our advanced Pit Orchestra Apprenticeship Program (POAP) being mentored alongside local professionals. *Les Misérables* is shaping up to be one of our best productions yet!"

*Les Misérables* features a cast of 40 performing arts students (ages 13 to 24) from cities throughout the Bay Area. They are led by a team of professional directors, designers, and musicians, including Director Boesing, Music Director Möschler, and Choreographer Pam Crane.

Tickets are available online at [www.ymtcbayarea.org](http://www.ymtcbayarea.org) beginning June 1, 2019 or at the door one hour before curtain. Ticket prices are \$16–32, with discounts for students, seniors, military, teachers, and groups. YMTC offers one "pay-what-you-will" performance to provide affordable musical theater to everyone in the Bay Area community. This performance will be on Friday, 7/26, at 7:00 p.m., when seats will be offered for cash-only at the box office. Reserved seats can still be purchased online.

## COMPANY ANNOUNCES 15<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON

YMTC's 2019–20 season will feature three full-scale musicals at the El Cerrito High School Performing Arts Theater: *Rent* (Fall 2019), *A Little Night Music* (Spring 2020), and *The Music Man* (Summer 2020). Season subscriptions can be purchased online at <http://www.ymtcbayarea.org>.

## ABOUT YMTC

YMTC is dedicated to providing exceptional training to young theater artists through the production of exceptional musical theater. The organization brings together the Bay Area's most talented and dedicated young singer/actors—as well as technical and orchestral apprentices—with professional directors, actors, designers, choreographers, and musicians. They take on challenging and sophisticated musical and dramatic themes, and productions are always accompanied by a full, live orchestra.

## CALENDAR LISTING

YMTC presents the musical *Les Misérables* based on Victor Hugo's 1862 novel—the epic story of social injustice and the struggle for freedom and redemption in 19th century France. This sung-through pop opera is accompanied by a full, live orchestra.

**Show Run:** July 19–28, 2019

**Opens:** Friday, July 19, 2019

### Performances:

Friday, 7/19, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, 7/20, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, 7/21, 2:00 p.m.

Friday, 7/26, 7:00 p.m. (Pay-What-You-Can Performance)

Saturday, 7/27, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, 7/28, 2:00 p.m.

**Where:** El Cerrito High School Performing Arts Theater, 540 Ashbury Avenue, El Cerrito. Near El Cerrito Plaza BART.

**Ticket Prices:** \$16–32. Student, senior, teacher, military, and group discounts are available. Purchase tickets at [www.ymtcbayarea.org](http://www.ymtcbayarea.org) or at the door, which opens one hour prior to performance.